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Letter dated 19 January 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you today by H.E. Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 54 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Permanent Representative

Annex

As you are no doubt aware, following the recent elections held in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, a coalition government has been formed between the Democratic Party and the Republican Turkish Party which received a vote of confidence from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Assembly on 12 January 1994.

The text of paragraphs relating to the Cyprus question of the government programme presented to the Assembly on 10 January 1994 is annexed to this letter for Your Excellency's information. It will be noted that this document, while reiterating the well-known fundamental positions of the Turkish Cypriot side on the Cyprus question such as bicommunality, bizonality, political equality, Turkey's effective guarantee and sovereignty, also lends renewed support to the efforts for establishing trust and confidence between the two communities, through direct dialogue between the two leaders.

In contrast to this positive approach, however, and at a time when efforts in this regard have been intensified with the presentation of the United Nations experts' reports, the Greek Cypriot side has stepped up its public campaign against the package of "confidence-building measures" and, particularly, against the experts' reports. As part of this, the Greek Cypriot spokesman, Mr. Kassoulides, stated on 4 January 1994 that the Greek Cypriot side does not consider the United Nations experts' reports as "final United Nations documents" or as "binding". He added that his side could not accept the fact that political issues were raised in these reports.

In answer to a question as to what would happen if these reports were annexed to the package, he said "if such a thing happens, we will reject it". Mr. Kassoulides repeated his remarks on Greek Cypriot radio on 10 January 1994. In the meantime, the Greek Cypriot press assailed the reports by claiming they "create a State within a State, in Varosha".

The leader of the Greek Cypriot community, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, on the other hand, faced with criticism for having allegedly "accepted" the package of "confidence-building measures", made it clear that he had "not gone beyond agreeing to discuss the package". He added "the experts' reports are not for acceptance, they are for discussion".

The Greek Cypriot leadership's latest remarks are seen as further confirmation that right from the beginning the Greek Cypriot side had merely "appeared" to have accepted the package for tactical reasons, whereas it had not actually done so.

Just as significantly, the Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister, Mr. Alecos Michaelides, in a recent interview with the Greek Cypriot weekly magazine Selides, stated that the "set of ideas" put forward by the Secretary-General could not bring a workable solution to the Cyprus question and, therefore, could not be accepted as it is. Mr. Michaelides went on to say the following:

"The structure that could be brought about by these ideas will collapse at the transitional stage. Even if we surpass this stage, the structure that will be created will not be lasting. The acceptance by us of the Ghali 'set of ideas' as it is would mean the violation of human rights with our own signature. This would also prevent our entry into the European Union."

The obvious conclusion that can be drawn from these remarks is that the Greek Cypriot side believes that the "set of ideas" violates human rights and the principles of the European Union. This adds a new dimension to the well-known opposition of the Clerides administration to the "set of ideas" and is revealing.

I wish to reiterate that Your Excellency's efforts for the establishment of trust and confidence between the two sides in Cyprus and for the achievement of an overall solution in the island cannot but suffer from this new display of unconstructive behaviour on the part of the Greek Cypriot side. I am sure that Your Excellency as well as the international community will duly take note of the negative implications of this unconstructive attitude of our counterparts for the process of negotiations in the island.

I shall be grateful if the present letter and its annex are circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

Enclosure

The Government will do its share so that a mutually acceptable solution to the Cyprus question can be found.

The Government will support the intercommunal talks aimed at a just and durable peace, which will be conducted within the context of the good-offices mission of the United Nations Secretary-General and on the basis of equal political status. The Government believes that the negotiations between the two sides must be conducted freely and under conditions of equality.

The talks shall be conducted within the context of the 1977 and 1979 high-level agreements and the mutually accepted principles by the two community leaders. It is the Government's belief that it would be more appropriate and beneficial to hold the talks in Cyprus.

It is fundamental that any agreement that will be reached through the intercommunal talks be submitted to the free will of the two communities and be implemented only if it is approved by them in separate referendums.

A settlement to be reached shall be aimed at securing the coexistence of the two communities side by side in peace and tranquillity without returning to the pre-1974 conditions.

What is important on the subject of territorial adjustments is that, in the context of the criteria envisaged in the 1977 high-level agreement, an amount of land which will be considered adequate by the Turkish Cypriot people remain as ours. We shall not accept any approach that will force our people to move from their current places.

Any agreement to be reached shall be based on the equal political status of the two peoples and on the joint sovereignty which shall emanate from the two peoples. The residual powers of the two separate administrations shall rest on sovereignty, in a manner similar to that in the Swiss Constitution.

The bicommunal and bizonal structure shall continue to be effectively and physically guaranteed by Turkey.

Within this structure, no community shall have the right to be sovereign over, or to have administrative or other jurisdiction over the other.

The basis of the joint administration is the equality of the two sides.

Decision by consensus shall be the basis of the joint administration.

Bicommunality as a characteristic shall be reflected at every level of the joint administration, including the rotating presidency.

The Government considers it useful that the two community leaders, within the context of the intercommunal negotiating process, hold contacts with a view to achieving intercommunal rapprochement and confidence-building.

Equality and mutual respect are essential in all intercommunal relations and contacts.

In the process of finding a solution to the Cyprus question, in addition to the continuation of the President as negotiator, our Government shall attach special importance to the participation in the intercommunal talks of the Deputy Prime Minister, together with the Foreign Minister, as Government representatives, and to keeping the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Assembly informed on the progress of the negotiations.